Special Management Committee for allocating spectrum to private broadcasters

*218. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Management Committee has been constituted for the purpose of allocating spectrum to private broadcasters;

(b) if so, whether the first phase of Private FM radio stations has been rolled out this year;

(c) if so, whether the second phase of FM stations or privatization has been recommended in June, 2002;

(d) if so, what are the details of the second phase; and

(e) the total radio licencees allocated in the first phase and the number that will be allocated in the second phase?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A committee had been constituted under the Chairman and Managing Director, BECIL for planning of frequencies for setting up of private FM radio stations.

(b) 10 private FM stations, have so for been operationalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 37 licence agreements were signed with 16 companies in the first phase. No decision has been taken regarding the numbers that will be allocated in the second phase.

Revamping of HUDCO

*219. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal before his Ministry for totally revamping HUDCO;

(b) whether the proposal also includes simplifying the procedure for sanction of loans, etc; and

(c) the steps his Ministry has taken to get approval from Government for upgradation of HUDCO from Schedule 'B' to Schedule 'A' public sector enterprise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation have initiated several steps to restructure and revamp Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) and to streamline and simplify the procedures for processing of applications and sanction of loans, in an efforts to make it more professional in its approach towards its customers. The Board of Directors of HUDCO have decided to bring about reforms in the system so as to gear itself up for higher turn-over and to make its operations more effective and profitable. Consequently, an internal operational order has also been issued *inter-alia* redefining roles and responsibilities and delegation of powers at its Regional and Zonal Offices including streamlining and simplifying the systems/ procedures for issue of sanctions/releases of funds and to reassess the manpower requirements *vis-a-vis* the operational needs.

(c) Government have already approved upgradation of HUDCO from Schedule B to Schedule A company.

Welfare schemes in Punjab and U.P.

*220. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of social welfare schemes being implemented in Punjab and U.P. by Government and the amount provided for the same, district-wise;

(b) the manner in which this spending is controlled by Government;

(c) whether there is any scheme for the welfare of Backwards, SCs, STs and border areas of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the same is being implemented during the year 2002-2003 and budgetary allocations made therefor?